

Covid Narrative November 9, 2020

Selectman Karen Connolly praised Town Clerk Kathleen Gardner and her entire staff for their hard work on Election Day Nov. 3 and for the weeks before.

Veterans Day is Wednesday (Nov. 11). There will be a virtual Veterans Day celebration at 11 a.m. on Scituate Community Television on Comcast channels 8, 9, 22 and online.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday (Nov. 13), Scituate Veterans are invited to a Salut open house at the Scituate Food Pantry (Masonic Hall, 344 Country Way). Veterans will receive a box of goodies, a small gift and refreshments. They will also have the opportunity to chat with fellow veterans. Masks must be worn and social distancing is required. Invitations have been mailed to town veterans of which there are about 1,000. If a veteran did not receive an invitation or know someone who did not, he or she should call 781-545-8715.

Special Town Meeting is Monday (Nov. 16) at 7 p.m. at the high school gym. Connolly said every precaution has

been taken to make sure attendees will be safe. She said there are budget items that need to be taken care of and capital projects that were not addressed at the April Town Meeting. The Town is not allowed to conduct a virtual Town Meeting under the statute.

The Town Moderator will hold a meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 12) via Zoom. Check the town calendar on scituatema.gov for the agenda and link.

Scituate Community Christmas and the Scituate Food Pantry need donations. Connolly said especially this year monetary donations would be much appreciated.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said since last Tuesday there have been 15 new Covid cases. He said the town needs to do better. The state is using a new color-coded Covid map that takes into account the community's population, testing, and other risk factors. Right now, Scituate is in the green category but that may change when the new town numbers are figured in.

State guidelines now require all residents wear masks when out in public even if no one is around. Boudreau said he was in the Harbor on Saturday and Sunday and few people were in compliance. The state allows \$300 fines for violations. But Boudreau said the town would be

conducting education and not be levying fines. He said the other guidelines require people stay at home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Restaurants must stop in-person service by 9:30 p.m. but takeout is allowed after that time. Liquor stores and retail establishments with liquor have to cease sales by 9:30 p.m. Indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings to 25.

Boudreau stressed residents should get tested. Not wearing a mask impacts schools, businesses, the elderly, those with prior conditions. Everyone needs to be vigilant, put their masks on and stay home if not feeling well, Boudreau said.

The reservoir is 39 percent full, up from 33 percent. Usage is at 550,000 from 485,000 gallons per day the previous week.

The water department will continue the flushing program depending on the water supply and weather conditions. The water department is conducting no-contact, seasonal shut-offs. If a resident wants a shut-off, then go to water department tab on the town website to fill out the form. [Scituatema.gov]

FEMA has announced a company called Compass has teams of two to four people using hand-held GPS devices and cameras in Scituate this week to study coastal erosion and the rise in sea levels. Participants will wear IDs.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said school and health officials are reviewing the new state Covid guidelines.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority will reassess the condition of the Cushing and Hatherly schools. The school department recently submitted a statement of Interest application for a potential new elementary school with the SBA.

Burkhead said last week one student and one staff member tested positive for Covid in the district.

Sailor shout-out this week goes the Scituate Education Foundation. Burkhead took part in Seaside Stories that he described as entertaining and an inspiration.